

Commission to Memorialize the Contributions of All Rhode Island Women, which was established in May 2001 to address the notable lack of female figures in the State House statuary. After reviewing thousands of nominations, the Commission selected Chace for her many contribution to Rhode Island, and I wish to recognize some of her notable achievements.

Born in 1806 in Smithfield, Elizabeth Buffum was raised as a Quaker. Her life was strongly molded by the values of independence and simplicity instilled in her by her family. Her passion for justice first became evident in the 1830s when she campaigned against slavery. Founder of the Fall River Anti-Slavery Society, she mounted a door-to-door campaign to further the abolitionist cause, and she and her husband, Samuel Chace, often hid fugitive slaves in their home. So passionate was Chace about abolitionism that she ultimately severed ties with her beloved Quaker roots because the religion would not strengthen its position against slavery.

Upon returning to Rhode Island, Chace continued her anti-slavery efforts and also spoke out in favor of women's suffrage and temperance—two of her greatest passions. As one of the founders of the Rhode Island Women's Suffrage Association, she objected to the political and social subjugation of women and advocated the admission of women to Brown University. Additionally, she tackled the unpopular issues of homelessness and prison reform, simultaneously making enemies and progress. Throughout these campaigns, she never neglected her family and was a caring and dedicated mother to her ten children. She maintained her strong spirit until her death in 1899 at the age of 93, having written an article just one year earlier for the *Women's Journal*, a suffrage newspaper.

Chace is certainly an apt choice as the first Rhode Island woman honored by a State House statue, though I am confident that today merely marks the beginning of a greater trend in recognizing remarkable women in the halls of the Rhode Island Capitol. I wish to thank my good friend, Secretary of State Edward Inman, for his vision and leadership in trumpeting the accomplishments of women in our great state, and I look forward to working with him on other important initiatives to enhance the civic pride of all Rhode Islanders.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE GALLAGHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize an extraordinary man whose kindness and good deeds embody the spirit of Colorado, and this nation. Charlie Gallagher is a pillar of the Denver, Colorado community, but the impact of his contributions reaches beyond the city to touch the entire state. In recognition of Charlie's many accomplishments and philanthropic generosity, the Ancient Order of Hibernians chose him as the 2002 Irish Person of the Year. This is a distinguished achievement that recognizes the dedication and commitment of an individual to his or her community. As Charlie celebrates this achievement, I would like to take this opportunity

to acknowledge his kindly spirit before this body of Congress.

Charlie Gallagher has overcome numerous obstacles in his life and has used his experience to help others overcome similar circumstances. He started out in an inner-city Irish neighborhood in Toledo, Ohio, living in a house where ten family members shared one bathroom and three bedrooms. The grandson of Irish immigrants, Charlie's family instilled in him the values of education, hard work and determination. It is this foundation which Charlie used to found Gallagher Enterprises LC, an extraordinarily successful private equity firm in Colorado. Like many Americans, Charlie rose from hardship to prosperity, but has remained true to his roots. He has adopted the motto, "if you've been blessed and if you've been lucky, you gotta give back". He has lived his life accordingly.

Charlie funded the establishment of several buildings and additions for many educational institutions, ranging from grade school to higher education institutions, in his home state of Ohio. For almost twelve years, he has supported over 100 students from underprivileged backgrounds by providing them with full tuition, room and board. Beginning this year, Charlie has pledged to fully fund 100 students at Denver's Metro State College for five years. In addition to his philanthropic contributions, Charlie continues to serve his community as a board member of the Metropolitan State College of Denver Foundation, Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, the Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of Denver and the National Jewish Medical & Research Center. He is a Trustee of the Irish Community Center and the Vice Chairman of the Denver Art Museum. In addition, he helped to raise \$50 million for the art museum and was instrumental in securing city bonding for the museum's expansion. To continue his generous support of the community, Charlie and his family frequently donate their time, money, and energy through the Gallagher Family Foundation of the Denver Foundation. This organization gives generously to numerous causes every year and serves as a model for philanthropic foundations throughout the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Gallagher is an extraordinary individual and it is my pleasure to bring forth his accomplishments and generosity before this body of Congress, and this nation. Charlie's life serves as an example for anyone who has ever faced and overcome adversity in their life. Charlie, thank you for all you have done for the State of Colorado and good luck in your future endeavors.

ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to improve the way the federal government is working to reduce the risk of wildfire damage in the most vulnerable communities of Colorado and other states.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Representative JOEL HEFLEY

and my close colleague from New Mexico, Representative TOM UDALL. We have worked closely in its development and I greatly appreciate their support.

The bill deals with the fuel-reduction program that is a key part of the National Fire plan. Under that program, the land-managing agencies remove brush and other material that can fuel high-intensity fires through techniques such as burning ("prescribed fires"), mechanical thinning, vegetation control (such as defensible space around homes and buildings) or timber removal.

I have supported that program, but have had some questions about the way the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the other land-managing agencies have been implementing it. So, I joined a number of our colleagues in the House and Senate in asking the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the steps the agencies have taken so far to see if improvements should be made.

GAO has now completed that review and submitted a report that includes a number of recommendations. This bill would require that those recommendations be adopted. I am attaching a fact sheet that outlines the main provisions of the bill, as well as the "Results in Brief" portion of the GAO report.

The GAO highlighted the need for two things—more and better interagency coordination, and better focus on identifying and responding to the highest-risk communities in the wildland/urban interface area.

Improvements in these matters are important nationally, but they are particularly important for Colorado and other western states. That is because Colorado, like other Western states, has been experiencing ever more growth and development in and near forested areas. We are seeing more people, structures and investments placed at risk.

It is this increasing risk to people and property—increasing because of growth as well as because of the unnatural forest conditions that we have created in many forests in Colorado through decades of fire suppression policies—that led to my interest in focusing on questions of wildlife management. And two particular things then lead me to take action.

First, I took a tour of an area west of Boulder, Colorado, called Winiger Ridge. It is near an area where there was a major forest fire in 1989. Following that fire, a number of citizens, along with the Forest Service and Boulder County officials, got together to find a way to reduce the danger of a repetition of such a dangerous blaze. That group's efforts ultimately lead to the identification of conditions that lead to wildfire risks and the recommendation that some steps be taken to reduce that risk. The Winiger Ridge area was chosen as a location to explore some of these techniques—which involve some mechanical thinning and some controlled burning. When I toured this area and learned of the issues and the proposed strategy, I was struck by the condition of the forest—a condition of dense stands of small diameter trees—and, more importantly, I was very concerned about the homes and families that reside within this area. These homes and families are literally in the path of a possible major fire that could be devastating.

It was important to identify this Winiger Ridge area because soon after my tour of it, another fire arose there in the summer of 2000, called the Walker Ranch fire. That fire